

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computed radiography cassette comprising:
a shell including upper and lower panels joined to first and second side members and a front end member to form a five sided cavity having an open end;

a storage phosphor assembly including a back end member, an insert plate having an upper face and being cantilevered from said back end member, and an x-ray storage phosphor disposed on said upper face of said insert plate, wherein said storage phosphor assembly is removably contained in said shell such that said back end member closes off said open end of said shell;

wherein said upper panel is of x-ray transmissive material; and

wherein said insert plate and said lower panel are made of x-ray opaque material having aligned sections thereof of x-ray transmissive material which allow x-rays to pass through said sections to an x-ray detector adapted to be located adjacent to said cassette.

2. The cassette of claim 1 wherein said insert plate is a lightweight rigid structure including an aluminum honeycomb core and outer aluminum skins having a section of x-ray transmissive material.

3. The cassette of claim 1 wherein said lower panel is of aluminum having a section of x-ray transmissive material.

4. The cassette of claim 1 wherein said sections respectively of said insert plate and said panel include multiple aligned subsections.

5. The cassette of claim 1 wherein said first and second side members and said front end member are of x-ray opaque material and of a channel cross-section having respective upper and lower edges, wherein said upper edge of said front end member is removed and said storage phosphor is extended into said front end member to capture radiation of a projecting body part of a patient close to the body of said patient.

6. The cassette of claim 5 wherein said lower edge of said front end member is removed.

7. The cassette of claim 1 including nose inserts located at the front corners of said insert plate to facilitate insertion and removal of said storage phosphor assembly relative to said cassette shell.

8. The cassette of claim 5 wherein said storage phosphor extends within 3mm of the front surface of said front end member.

9. The cassette of claim 5 wherein the outer dimensions of said cassette conform to mammography cassette standards so that the cassette can be used in existing mammography radiation equipment without modification.